

Application S.N. 10/595,317
January 4, 2008
Reply to the Office Action dated October 12, 2007
Page 5 of 6

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-14 are pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 9-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features recited in the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. 7,046,096). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 8 and 14.

In accordance with MPEP § 201.15, Applicant submits herewith an English translation of the Japanese Priority Application, JP 2003-372207, and a Certification that certifies that the English translation of JP 2003-372207 is accurate. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Kobayashi does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because the filing date of March 15, 2004 of Kobayashi is after the filing date of October 31, 2003 of JP 2003-372207, from which the present application claims priority.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the certified translation of JP 2003-372207, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8-14 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the certified translation of JP 2003-372207, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

Application S.N. 10/595,317
January 4, 2008
Reply to the Office Action dated October 12, 2007
Page 6 of 6

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 4, 2008

/Christopher A. Bennett #46,710/
Attorneys for Applicant

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 637-1480
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368
Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710